Beckwith Electric Company Inc.

Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership

Beckwith Electric Company Turns Out The Lights On Long Cycle Times

Client Profile:
Beckwith Electric Company, Inc. in Largo, Florida supplies relays and related equipment to power plants across the country. Founded in 1967 in Illinois, Beckwith Electric Co. moved to Florida in 1971 and now employs 90 people.

Situation:
Beckwith Electric Company (Beckwith) decided to re-evaluate its manufacturing operation and make changes to eliminate waste, improve on-time delivery, reduce open work orders, and streamline manufacturing flow. Beckwith turned to the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership (Florida MEP), a NIST MEP network affiliate, for assistance.

Solution:
Florida MEP specialists trained a team of Beckwith employees in the fundamentals of lean manufacturing. Next, by facilitating smaller cross-functional teams, Florida MEP helped Beckwith implement lean manufacturing techniques into its operations. Through training, elimination of wastes, process improvements, and improvements to the plant layout, the Beckwith team was able to significantly reduce work-in-process (WIP) inventories, cycle times, and open work orders.

Results:
Reduced redundant work orders by 63 percent.
Reduced WIP inventory by $446,000.
Reduced cycle times from 12 weeks to less than 4 weeks.
Reduced open work orders by 75 percent and realized a 37 percent improvement in productivity.

Testimonial:
"At Beckwith Electric, we recognized the benefits lean manufacturing principles offer. What we needed was a kick start to get this paradigm shift started. The staff at the Florida Manufacturing Extension Partnership provided the stimulus for getting our team focused on lean manufacturing techniques. I very much appreciated the learning environment that Florida MEP creates."
David Brooks, Director of Manufacturing